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DEFENSE LAWYERS TO BRING IN MAIN WITNESS IN HUNT LIBEL TRIAL
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As Watergate conspirator and former CIA agent E. Howard Hunt's libel suit against a right-wing organization enters the final stages, defense attorneys are planning to enter testimony from their main witness.

The witness, whose testimony will be read from a deposition, is Marita Lorenz. She claims to be a former mistress of Cuban President Fidel Castro and says she saw Hunt in Dallas the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Defense attorney Mark Lane said Lorenz, who was involved in anti-communist activities in Miami in the 60s, would not testify in person because she was afraid to come to Miami.

Hunt, 66, sued The Spotlight, an ultra-right weekly tabloid operated by the Washington-based Liberty Lobby for an Aug. 14, 1978 article that linked him to Kennedy's assassination.

The story was written by former CIA agent Victor Marchetti and claimed a CIA memo written in 1966 also placed Hunt in Dallas at the time of Kennedy's death. It also said Hunt was disguised as one of three bums who were arrested on a grassy knoll near the Old Texas School Book Depository the day Kennedy died.

Lane said Lorenz' testimony shows she met Hunt in a Dallas hotel the day before Kennedy died. Lorenz, who was involved in gun running for anti-communists, said Hunt was a 'paymaster' who gave Frank Sturgis money for guns she and others had brought to Dallas.

Sturgis also was to become involved in the Watergate burglary.

Lorenz said she then decided to get out of the operation. She said she traveled back to Miami, picked up her child and went to her mother's house in New York.

The next day President Kennedy was shot, she said. She also contends Sturgis later told her the exchange between him and Hunt Nov. 21, 1963 -- the day before Kennedy was assassinated -- involved Kennedy's death.

Hunt, who was with the CIA then, testified last week that he was working in his Washington office the day Kennedy was shot. His said his wife picked him up from work and they went to Chinatown to get groceries for dinner that night.

Hunt said he was waiting in his car with his infant son while his wife shopped for dinner when he first heard Kennedy had been shot.

Hunt was awarded \$650,000 when the case first went to a jury, but that verdict was overturned on appeal and a new trial was ordered because the presiding judge's instructions to the jury were flawed.